

ARIZONA SUPREME COURT

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 19, 2006 Cari Gerchick, Esq., Communications Director (602) 448-8412, cgerchick@courts.az.gov

Deadline Extended for Supreme Court's Disciplinary Commission Applications

The Disciplinary Commission of the Arizona Supreme Court is accepting applications to fill four vacancies — two attorneys and two non-attorney public members. The Commission meets monthly to review recommendations of attorney discipline made by hearing officers regarding attorneys who are charged with professional misconduct. The Commission can recommend such disciplinary action as disbarment, suspension, or censure of attorneys. It can also order informal reprimands or dismiss charges. All Commission recommendations are subject to final review by the Arizona Supreme Court.

Six attorneys and three public members comprise the commission, and each member may serve up to two three-year terms. Applicants for the vacant lawyer positions must be attorneys who are active members of the State Bar of Arizona and reside in either Maricopa or Pima counties.

"The Disciplinary Commission provides the important service of protecting the public against attorneys who may have acted unethically," said Chief Justice Ruth V. McGregor. "By involving both attorney and non-attorney members, the Commission raises the caliber of Arizona's attorneys, moving the entire judicial branch from good to great."

The Disciplinary Commission will review applications and recommend candidates to the Arizona Supreme Court. The deadline for submitting applications is **Friday**, **August 18**, **2006**. Applications may be obtained from:

- Download an application from www.supreme.state.az.us/dc/disciplinarycommission.htm;
- E-mail disclerk@courts.az.gov; or
- Mail Certification and Licensing Division, Disciplinary Clerk and Hearings Unit, 1501 W. Washington, Suite 104, Phoenix, AZ 85007.
- Call the Attorney Discipline Unit at 602-364-0335.

The successful applicants will replace current Commission members Guadalupe Gutierrez, Ph.D. of Phoenix, whose term expires on June 30, 2006; and Steven Nelson, M.D. of Phoenix, Cynthia Choate of Tucson, and Craig Mehrens of Phoenix, whose terms expire on September 30, 2006.

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